



# Afghan parade celebrates anniversary of victory over Soviets



The Government of Afghanistan celebrated Asht-e-Sawr, the 13th anniversary of the victory of mujahideen rebels over the country's former Soviet-backed government, with a grand military parade on April 28. The parade, which highlighted the Afghan National Army and Afghan National Police, began with President Hamid Karzai inspecting the troops before taking his place alongside government ministers, former mujahideen leaders and numerous foreign diplomats and military representatives. Units of the ANA and ANP marched past the reviewing stands in neat formations, followed by a vast display of military equipment including tanks, helicopters, armored personnel carriers, artillery pieces and much more. Addressing the crowd, Karzai expressed his confidence in the successful involvement of the ANA and ANP in Afghanistan's ongoing reconstruction, "I should reiterate that this National Army and Police parade has proved that, God willing, Afghanistan is gradually able to stand on its own feet, and wants to rely on its sons. If this process continues, our dear Afghanistan will be self-sufficient and reliant on its own skills and abilities. We are optimistic and are doing our best." The celebration is known to Afghans as Asht-e-Sawr because it falls on the eighth day of Sawr, the second month in the Afghan calendar.

Photos by OMC-A Public Affairs











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